

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2007

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Commissioner Goodell,

As elected representatives of the people of the State of Connecticut, we write to express our concern that many loyal fans of the New England Patriots and the New York Giants will not have the opportunity to watch the final regular season game between the two teams. Under the NFL's current policies, New England Patriots fans in Boston and New York Giants fans in New York City will be able to see the game on free television, but most in Connecticut will not.

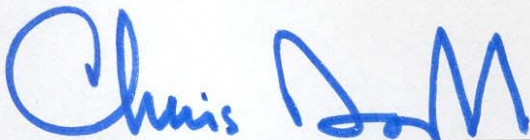
This is a troubling development because when the NFL testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in November 2006, the league touted its policy of offering free, over-the-air broadcasting of NFL games. Since Congress passed the Sports Broadcasting Act for that purpose, watching NFL games has become a weekly ritual for millions of Americans each fall. Conversely, a policy that relies on pay television risks alienating the fans who have made the NFL so successful.

When the NFL testified last year before Congress, they explained that even games televised on pay television "are televised on free over-the-air television in home cities of competing teams." The NFL's definition of "home cities," however, is unduly narrow. As their team name clearly states, the New England Patriots represent all of New England, and many Connecticut fans cheer for the Patriots as their home team. In addition, Connecticut's southwestern border lies less than 15 miles from New York City, and many residents in that area follow the Giants each week.

We strongly urge you to use your new flex schedule to swap out the currently scheduled NBC Sunday night game (Jets vs. Chiefs) with the currently scheduled Saturday NFL Network game of The Patriots vs. Giants. Under this revised schedule, the Patriots-Giants game would be shown on NBC and the Jets vs. Chiefs on the NFL Network. This will allow all those interested in Connecticut to view what could be a monumental game.

We encourage you to recognize the value that NFL team loyalty in Connecticut adds to the Patriots, the Giants, and the NFL by ensuring that this potentially historic final game of the season is available over-the-air in Connecticut. During this momentous NFL season, the league should not alienate the fans in Connecticut who root strongly for their home team.

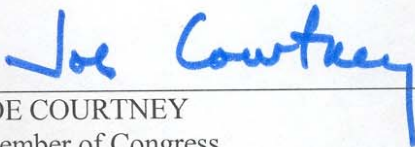
Sincerely,



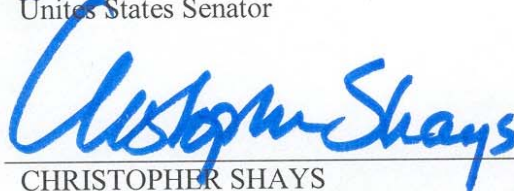
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator



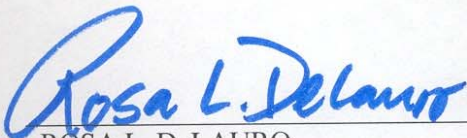
JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN
United States Senator



JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress



CHRISTOPHER SHAYS
Member of Congress



ROSA L. DeLAURO
Member of Congress



JOHN E. LARSON
Member of Congress